



15 March 2020

HON. GREGORIO B. HONASAN II

Secretary

**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

C.P Garcia Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

RE: **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON "STRINGENT SOCIAL DISTANCING
MEASURES AND FURTHER GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION"
("Memorandum")**

Dear Secretary Honasan:

In light of the critical alert levels raised on COVID-19, public utilities, i.e. telecommunications and its supporting infostructures, will play an important role have in government's efforts in managing the situation.

The Commission respectfully recommends for the issuance of the appropriate memorandum, order or instruction directing all national government agencies, local government units, public telecommunication entities (PTEs), internet service providers (ISPs), and value-added service providers (VASPs) in accordance with the provisions on working arrangements¹ and the exceptions on entry restrictions² in the Memorandum along with curfew restrictions that may be imposed by LGUs, that the following matters concerning the communications industry be enforced:

A. ON THE MOVEMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION-RELATED GOODS

Importation, domestic transport and sale of telecommunications equipment, devices, and spare parts shall be allowed and remain unrestricted.

B. ON THE MOVEMENT TELECOMMUNICATION PERSONNEL

All telecommunication-related work force (including those who perform indirect services such as the security, technical, sales and other support personnel as well as employees of third-party contractors doing sales, installation, maintenance and repair works and as certified by the PTE, ISP or VASP) shall present their company ID or supporting certification in order to be allowed to travel and perform the necessary work to ensure the unimpeded delivery of telecommunication services at anytime;

¹ 4. Alternative working arrangements, including but not limited to, work-from home, compressed work week, staggered work hours, and creation of skeletal workforces, will be implemented in the Executive Branch. xxx.

5. Flexible work arrangements shall be encouraged in the private sector. xxx All manufacturing, retail and service establishments are advised to remain open. In all cases strict social distancing measures are required to be observed by their respective managements;

² Subject to the qualifications the IATF may provide, all areas under general community quarantine shall implement the following:

- a. Restrict the non-essential entry of people to the contained area xxx except: xxx (5) persons providing basic services and public utilities; xxx

All telecommunication-related foreign service providers arriving from restricted countries; such as but not limited to, foreign construction workers, technical field advisors, technical experts from the original equipment manufacturer shall be allowed entry into the country, provided they comply with ANY OF THE FOLLOWING four public health precautions-

- a. Present a medical certificate issued by a medical authority deemed competent by the DOH confirming that they have tested negative for COVID-19 no later than 48 hours before entry;
- b. Present a medical certificate issued by a medical authority deemed competent by the DOH confirming the person has completed a 14-day quarantine immediately before traveling to the Philippines;
- c. Complete a 14-day quarantine to be performed at a government facility upon arrival here in the Philippines before joining the workforce; or
- d. Complete a 14-day quarantine to be performed at a privately-owned quarantine facility with the necessary government accreditation upon arrival here in the Philippines before joining the workforce.

C. ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PERMITS

All applications and renewals for permits, necessary to operate and maintain telecommunications facilities for areas imposed with community quarantine, shall be filed with the NTC online and approvals shall be sent to the designated email. If related fees cannot be paid online or through banks, said fees shall be paid within sixty (60) days after the lifting of the quarantine period.

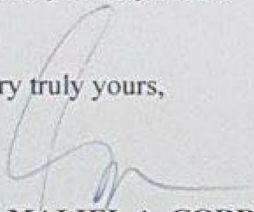
D. ADHERENCE TO HEALTH PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

All covered personnel shall adhere to the health precautionary measures as directed by the Department of Health.

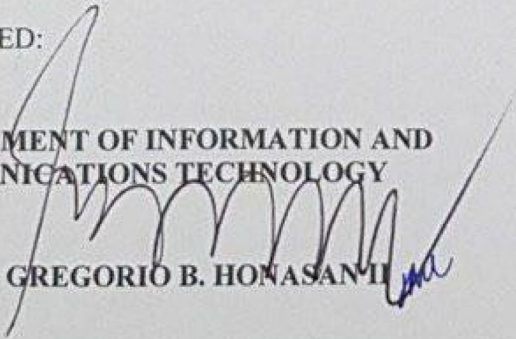
Respectfully submitted for approval and further instructions.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,


GAMALIEL A. CORDOBA
Commissioner

APPROVED:


**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

Secretary **GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**

